

**THREE PET FOOD MARKETING COMPANIES TO PAY  
GOVERNMENT \$736,543 TO RESOLVE CLAIMS UNDER  
THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT**

PHILADELPHIA - United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced that North American Pet Products, Inc., Omega Pet Professionals, Inc., and Doane International Pet Products, LLC, have agreed to pay \$736,543 to resolve civil claims under the federal False Claims Act and other federal statutes and common law principles.

Omega and North American Pet Products, co-owner of Doane International Pet Products, applied for and received Marketing Assistance Payments through a program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture during the years 2000 through 2003. The program was intended to assist small companies in establishing export markets. The United States contends that neither Omega nor North American Pet Products were eligible for such payments because of the companies' relationship with Doane International Pet Products, a company that did not meet the program's small company eligibility requirements.

North American Pet Products, on behalf of Omega, which is no longer operating, and Doane International Pet Products, deny that either the companies or their owners, agents or employees knowingly violated the False Claims Act or any other applicable statutes or regulations. The companies cooperated with the government's investigation.

The investigation was conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General and the United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The case was assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Frye.